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2. *P. penicillatus* Woodhouse. *Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sc.*, 6, 200. New Mexico.

3. *P. parvus* Lec. *Cricetodipus parvus* Peale. *U. S. Exp. Exp. Mam.*, p. 53, pl. 13, fig. 2.

A specimen procured by me in the Desert of the Colorado of Southern California, differs only from Peale's original specimen from Oregon in having the whiskers partly black; it is apparently a more adult specimen, though not larger than the one in the *Exp. Exp. Collection*. An error occurs in Peale's description and measurement, where the tail is stated to be longer than the body; it is in reality a little shorter than the head and body, reaching just in front of the ears, when laid along the back.

Dr. Charles M. Wetherill presented to the notice of the Society specimens of fused Asphalte from Hillsboro', New Brunswick, which variety of Asphalte he had characterized as *Melan-Asphalt*, in a paper read before the American Philosophical Society in July last. Dr. W. remarked that Chemists, who had pronounced this variety of Asphalt infusible, had not properly experimented with it. He had recently fused it in a German flask; it flowed with a level surface and was poured out, after which it hardened. It is remarkably electric both before and after fusion.

January 18th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, dated Washington, Dec. 20, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of late numbers of the *Proceedings*.

Dr. Hallowell read a paper intended for publication in the *Proceedings*, "On some new Reptiles from California;" which was referred to Dr. Ruschenberger, Dr. Heermann and Dr. Woodhouse.

Dr. Le Conte called the attention of the members to a description, with a plate, by Wesmael, of the Mexican Ant, in the *Bulletin de l'Acad. Royale de Bruxelles*. Wesmael considers the characteristics sufficiently well marked to form a new sub-genus, *Myrmecocystis*.

Dr. Bridges, on behalf of the Publication Committee, announced the publication of Part 3, Vol. 2, New Series of the *Journal*.

Dr. Kane asked that an estimate be made of the expense, &c. of materials necessary for the preservation of objects of Natural History in the proposed Arctic Expedition. Referred to the Committee previously appointed to confer with Dr. Kane.

January 25th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Committee on Dr. Le Conte's paper, describing new Coleoptera of the United States, reported in favor of publication in the *Proceedings*.